

The Textus Receptus

“Christianity”, as it has come to be known, was not originated by Gentiles nor was it largely embraced by Gentiles until after Apostle Paul (a Jew) became the Apostle to the Gentiles early in its multi-millennial history. The founder of this neo-Judaist sect was a Jew, and was none other than Yahushua HaMashiyach. But far too often Gentiles fail to remember and consider the “Jewishness” of Yahushua. Here is a brief list of a few examples of scriptural facts that should be remembered and not overlooked: 1) He was carried by and birthed from the womb of a Jewish mother (Mary) and was adopted by a Jewish father (Joseph), 2) Mary and Joseph had Yahushua circumcised the eighth day after His birth according to Jewish custom, 3) Mary and Joseph gave him a Jewish name (Yahushua) as instructed by YHWH’s messenger (Angel Gabriel), 4) Yahushua learned Hebrew and the Hebrew scriptures, 5) Yahushua frequented the Jewish synagogues and Jewish temple, as was the Jewish custom, 6) Yahushua marveled the Jewish scholars at a young age with his command and understanding of the Jewish scriptures and their meanings, 7) Yahushua corrected misinterpretations of Jewish scripture and further expounded upon Jewish scripture throughout His ministry, both publicly and privately, 8) Yahushua chose twelve Jewish disciples to carry on His ministry—advancing the Kingdom of YHWH, 9) Yahushua’s coming and many details concerning His life and ministry was prophesied about in Jewish scripture, 10) Yahushua instructed his disciples to go to the Jews first (as did Apostle Paul), for they were YHWH’s “lost sheep”—“children of YHWH”, 11) Yahushua was tried and sentenced to death by a Jewish court, 12) some of His last words spoken in anguish on the cross before He died were in the Hebrew (Jewish) language, which is common among multi-lingual people—to use their mother tongue when they experience elevated emotion or pain, 13) Gentiles (the wild olive tree) were grafted into the Jewish Olive tree not the other way around, in fact Yahushua himself said, “Salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22), and (14) there is much more that could be listed here but this is enough to set the tone and make the point.

Finally, Rome made no distinction between Judaism and this neo-Judaist sect that was later dubbed as “Christianity” by unbelievers. This neo-Judaist sect was started by and advanced by a Jewish Rabbi (Yahushua) that was later advanced/continued by His Jewish disciples and followers. This neo-Judaist sect did not really explode externally (among Gentiles) until the Jewish scholar and leader Apostle Paul entered the scene. In summary, to deny Yahushua’s “Jewishness” is to deny scripture and to fight against YHWH. But while this is true, it does not mean nor justify the advancement of the Old Mosaic Covenant. Apostle Paul clearly makes a distinction between the Old and the New and identifies what is to be kept (specifically observed) and what is to be used for teaching and learning purposes. After all, the righteousness of the Law of YHWH has not changed in principle but the priestly order of the OT and its dissemination modality has. This newness facilitates advanced understandings which produces a new synergy.

Theology is popularly known as the science or the study of God (Theos - transliteration) and of the relations between God, man and the universe. However, the word Theos and Theology come from Greek influences (Hellenism) since the word Theos is a Greek prefix used for each Greek deity which is not a term that Messiah (HaMashiyach) or the Apostles would have used. The HaMashiyachim [a name used by Jews to collectively refer to the people who believe that Yahushua (Jesus) is Messiah (HaMashiyach)] would have used the Tetragrammaton YHWH (transliteration) instead of LORD and possibly Yahweh. Technically, the

HaMashiyach's name (not title) was Yahushua (Hebrew/Aramaic transliteration), not *Jesus*. The English usage of *Jesus* follows the Latin *Vulgate* path of translation/transliteration. In other words the English spelling *Jesus* is an English translation that comes via the Greek to Latin (*Vulgate*) to the *Textus Receptus* path. The earliest publications of the *Textus Receptus*, before it was called the *Textus Receptus*, which Desiderius Erasmus, a Dutch Catholic humanist, began in 1512, that was published in 1516 AD, was known as the *Novum Instrumentum omne*. Desiderius Erasmus developed this version for economic gain and it was endorsed by the Roman Catholic Church. The full Polyglot Bible (the first printed, but not published, being the *Complutensian Polyglot*) would have been published before the *Novum Instrumentum omne*, had it not been for the exclusive printing rights granted to Erasmus by the Catholic Pope (Pope Leo X). His first few editions were so flawed that he, Desiderius Erasmus, ended up using the *Vulgate* (he had collected as many *Vulgate* manuscripts as he could find) to fix his translations. Later editions of the *Novum Instrumentum omne* came to be known as the *Textus Receptus*. The *KJV* did not precede the early editions of the *Textus Receptus*, which were used extensively by the *KJV* translators. And most English Bible versions also relied heavily on the *Textus Receptus*, i.e., both its earlier versions, before it was known as the *Textus Receptus*, as well as the *Textus Receptus* itself.

Even the translators/editors of the *New International Version* acknowledge the accuracy of the YHWH Tetragrammaton (International Bible Society) but opted to use the traditional Catholic translation via the *Vulgate* path keeping the use of LORD, God, Jesus, etc. in vogue. As indicated above, this is the same path used by the *KJV* and most all other English translations.

It is also believed that the name Jehovah was given prominence by the Vatican. It emerged by inserting the vowel points of Adonai into the sacred Tetragrammaton YHWH and symbolized the ecumenicalism of that period. (Wiseman, 1990). Therefore, YHWH-ology would more accurately describe the specialty study of the God of the Jews and the early church since they were Jews who believed that Yahushua was the HaMashiyach (HaMashiyach/Messiah). The term "theology" would more accurately apply to the study of the Greek gods (and perhaps the gods of other non-Jewish and non-"Christian" religions) but not the YHWH of the Jews and of the Neo-Jews.

"Thou shalt call his Name Yeshua BECAUSE He shall save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21 (From the Peshitta Bible—Aramaic N.T.)

The Peshitta Bible (Aramaic Bible) still uses the Aramaic variant of the Hebrew name Yahushua. Therefore, the *Disciples of Christ* volumes use YHWH and Yahushua throughout for technical reasons when referring to the English translated words "God" and "Jesus" respectively. However, keep in mind that even though there are many translation or transliteration issues with most Bible versions, this does not detract from the veracity and eternal nature of YHWH's WORD that is forever settled in heaven. The mishandling of and the imperfections of humanity regarding translations and transliterations in no way diminishes nor alters the original divinely inspired WORD of YHWH that came from YHWH himself.

You can read a full treatment of this topic in *Disciples of Christ Volume 12*.